

be as short as approximately 1.3 msec), these claims do not teach or suggest a total MT pulse of duration less than 10 msec -- nor do they teach or suggest applying the MT pulse to a region different from the region to be imaged. Accordingly, the Examiner's allegation that the allowed claims in the copending '685 application "clearly anticipate the claims" that have here been rejected is believed to be erroneous.

The rejections of claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14-17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by either to Kassai '213 or Kassai '190 are also respectfully traversed.

It will be noted that both of these published applications name the present inventor Mitsue Miyazaki as a co-inventor. The undersigned presently believes that to the extent there is overlapping subject matter between the present claims and the disclosure contained in the cited published applications, such overlap represents the work of inventor Miyazaki alone and is thus not the invention of "another". Accordingly, it is not believed that either of the cited published applications are appropriate prior art references for citation in the present application.

The undersigned is currently in the process of investigating this understanding and, if appropriate, obtaining suitable factual declarations from the other two inventors named on these earlier published applications.

The rejection of claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14-17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Schneider '035 in view of Miyazaki JP '810 is also respectfully traversed.

There could have been no motivation to combine Schneider '035 with Miyazaki JP '810 -- e.g., it is unclear how even to possibly combine the technique of Schneider with that of Miyazaki.

Miyazaki does teach that a region for applying an MT pulse is different from a region to be imaged.

On the other hand, Schneider describes merely that a saturation pulse is set to be 5 msec. However, the saturation pulse is not an MT pulse. Even if it is assumed that the saturation pulse corresponds to the MT pulse of the present invention, a train of pulses preceding a pulse applied for imaging a region to be imaged is vastly different from that of the present invention.

In addition, Schneider fails to disclose a technique where a region for applying an MT pulse is different from a region to be imaged. Specifically, in Schneider, a saturation pulse is applied to the same region as the region to be imaged -- and without selecting a slice. That is, Schneider does not set a position for a saturation pulse to be applied as different from a region to be imaged.

That is to say, Schneider describes merely a saturation pulse which is a non-slice-selective RF pulse and shows no description hinting at use of a slice-selective RF pulse like Miyazaki.

Therefore, motivation to combine Schneider with Miyazaki does not arise as it is unclear how to combine the quite different techniques of Schneider and Miyazaki.

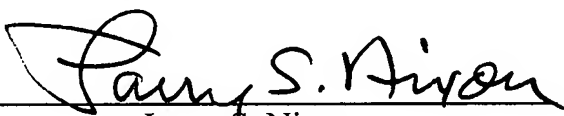
MIYAZAKI  
Appl. No. 10/024,536  
June 26, 2007

If it is assumed that a skilled person might venture to combine Schneider with Miyazaki even using technological knowledge and creative ability, the resulting technique is a pulse sequence for sequentially applying a slice-selective MT pulse with a long duration to a region different from a region to be imaged, applying a spoiler pulse, a sequence for data acquisition, applying a non-slice-selective saturation pulse with a duration of about 5 msec and applying a spoiler pulse -- which is quite different from the present invention.

Accordingly, as soon as suitable factual declarations can be filed, this entire application is believed to be in allowable condition.

Respectfully submitted,

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